

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
PA Meeting
September 20, 2022, 7:00pm
IN PERSON (and on Zoom)

Co-President Elizabeth Polkovitz commenced the meeting at 7:05pm after refreshments were served to parents in attendance outside the auditorium.

Introduction of the three new Co-Presidents for the 2022-2023 school year: Christine Kattan, Jayesh Patel, and Elizabeth Polkovitz.

Excited to offer in-person meetings, which allows parents to mingle and talk to members of the administration. Elisabeth notes the need for hybrid meetings as a Queens parent herself who understands the commute. Sound equipment will need to be tweaked for successful hybrid meetings; parents at home asked to give feedback during tonight's meeting. Look for an improvement for the next hybrid meeting in December.

Goals for the year:

1. Communication (frequently and clearly)
 - Meetings
 - Weekly newsletter (there's a master list; please email presidents to be put on email list if you don't already receive)
 - Facebook group, which serves as a virtual school yard
2. Community
 - Facebook group
 - Events: Gala, socials, December meeting, and more
3. School support
 - Annual giving
 - Gala
 - Passing budget

Minutes from the June 15, 2022 PA meeting were approved. Motion, Michael. Seconded, Ed. Unanimous in room; online Zoom poll for parents at home.

EXECUTIVE BOARD: Introductions

EB members in attendance come up to say a few words.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Rachel Hoyle, Principal

- Update from the summer:

- Summer Institutes
 - Research Institutes, Design & Engineering Group ran in person
- New this summer, Arts Institute
 - Students had the opportunity to go around the city seeing art and performances
- Mannes Center
 - Still being built; ahead of schedule
 - Ribbon cutting soon
- New parent Orientation
 - THANK YOU FOR COMING new parents and volunteers
- Fast start of the school year
 - Spirit week
 - Club fair
 - Robotics, Debate, Sports teams already started
- Bronx Science had 42 National Merit semifinalists
- Upcoming Project Accepted for Seniors on Sunday, October 2
- Lunch with the Principal starts this week
 - Encourage students to sign up
 - For students with any lunch period
 - Not just for elected leaders

NEW PARENT COORDINATOR: Rebecca Barreras

- Rachel: Thrilled to have her; seasoned parent of two alums
- Rebecca: Happy to be here and excited to start a journey with this year's freshmen and their parents
- Email her if stuck on anything: barreras@bxscience.edu
- Reach out; "that's my role and I'm thrilled to be in this role"

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kai Lu, Treasurer

- 70 percent of revenue comes from direct contributions
- Over 90 percent of monies are spent directly on students; goes to school department requests and facilities
- We have a reserve fund of \$640K in the bank as of 8/31/2022
- Total spending for the year will be \$442K
 - Support to departments
 - Support for academic and athletic teams
 - Food for parent and student volunteers
 - Academic and sports teams
 - School spirit events
 - Senior expenses
 - Technology (bulk of budget)

- Subscriptions to Naviance, Aleks

DONATE! Have kids bring checks to school and that way the PA receives 100 percent of the money. You can also donate through the website; there will be credit card fees.

<https://donate.onecause.com/pa-bxsci>

Annual Appeal letter coming to your mailbox soon. There is a \$750 ask per student. If you can give more, please do so. We are grateful for ANY amount of contribution. We hope to raise \$300K this year, up from our goal of \$275K last year.

Motion to pass 2022-2023 budget, Cliff Stanton. Seconded, Suki. Unanimous in room; online Zoom poll for parents at home.

TWO MORE ITEMS TO PASS

1. Support the S.O. The PA has the opportunity to purchase ice cream for 3 events at wholesale cost from parent Cliff Stanton, owner of NY Picnic Co.

- The DOE has strict rules around reimbursing any business owned by a parent; the PA EB (and general membership) must approve expenditure.
 - Good Humor and Häagen-Dazs
 - Wholesale cost = cost of ice cream, dry ice, and covering employee delivery
 - \$800 for Freshman event; \$800 for Senior event; \$3,000 for Carnival

Motion to approve expenditure, Ken Ho. Seconded, Alison Gardy. Expenditure approved.

2. Department Expense. The Latin Department asked for literature books for their upper level classes to replace sad, sorry worn out books.

- Department expense from a non-DOE vendor; vendor doesn't take checks
- Comparison shopping, online vendor purchase of \$4K
- PA can pay with debit per new chancellor regs on a case by case basis

Motion to approve expenditure, Raheemunnica Bukhari, Seconded, Michelle Byron. Expenditure approved.

FUNDRAISING: DIRECT APPEAL FROM Yan Yu, Co-VP

- Annual goal of \$300K/\$750 per child
- Any amount greatly appreciated
- Tax deductible
- Every penny finds its way to students
- How to donate
 - **PHONE** Text 917-920-2677
 - **WEBSITE** <https://bxsciencepa.org/donate/> or <https://donate.onecause.com/pa-bxsci>
 - **MAIL** Mailer w/letter and return slip to donate by check coming to your regular mailbox

- **EMPLOYEE MATCH** Ask your employers to match donations.

ELECTION 2022: NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Slate for Nominating Committee:

- Alison Gardy (chair)
- Cliff Stanton
- Ellen Goldberg
- Lucy Yang

Motion to approve slate, Dorie Paparo. Seconded, Ken Ho. Slate approved.

Alison Gardy: Available positions and how to nominate yourself or someone else

- One freshman SLT position
- One minimum and three maximum spots open on EB for incoming freshmen and sophomore parents only
 - Term October 19, 2022 to end of June 2023
- Nominations close September 30, 2022 at 11:59pm
- Candidates must send bio of NO MORE THAN 250 WORDS to nominations@bxsciencepa.org
 - About yourself
 - Why you want to serve on the EB
 - What you bring to EB
- At the October 19 PA meeting there will be three asks for nominees from the floor; these nominees will not have a written bio like the rest of slate
- There will be another election in May of 2023 for parents and guardians from all grades

SLT REPORT: MICHELLE BYRON

CEP, Comprehensive Education Plan, four areas of focus:

1. Student retention and satisfaction: Satisfaction from survey from 53% to 70%
2. Quality IEP for students: Increase grades of students with an IEP
3. 100% graduation rate
4. 100% college acceptance rate

Social emotional development; two activities done by teachers at start of year:

1. Community agreement (class rules)
 - Listen with empathy
 - Safe space for questions
2. Restorative Circle
 - Bring in a personal object

Homework and late assignment policy has changed to be due at the end of each marking period rather than June.

- Teachers have discretion.
- Google classroom still being used.
- Assignments posted in a timely fashion daily
- Grades entered within two weeks

INTRODUCTION OF GALA CO-CHAIRS

Two new Gala co-chairs this year:

- Gabrielle Koelbel, freshman parent
- Shirah Wercberger, sophomore parent
- Kickoff committee meeting on September 28 on Zoom.
- Not too late to join committee
- Biggest social and fundraising event of the school year!

SAFETY DIRECTOR REPORT, Jayesh Patel, PA Co-President

- There is a new safety & security page on the school website:
https://www.bxscience.edu/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=219412&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=1008131&hideMenu=0
- See safety email from Rebecca Barreras sent on 9/15 @12:10pm
- Sign up for Notify NYC: <https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/Home/EnrollmentInfo>
- Use a buddy system for walking to subway
- If you see something, say something.
- No U-turns on 205th Street when picking up and dropping off
- STAY SAFE AND STAY HEALTHY, BRONX SCIENCE!

MAIN EVENT: “Back in the Bronx Science Groove,” Parent and Student Panel Moderated by AP of Guidance, Andrew Nasser

Parents: Alison Gardy, Cliff Stanton, Ken Ho; Students: Baila Diallo ‘24, Nora Torok ‘25, Severjan Azirov ‘26, and Sheikh Islam ‘23

Tips, suggestions and ideas to navigate high school...Again.

Watch the full panel Q&A here starting at 58:23:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXvTDe2H6xl>

OTHER BUSINESS

Next PA meeting is October 19 and it will be fully remote because of the election.

Get new families involved!

Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.